

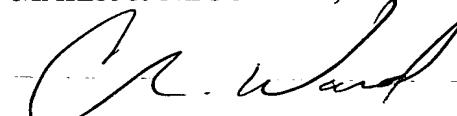
In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-278077 in view of JP 6-315961. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

Submitted concurrently herewith are certified English language translations of the foreign priority documents (JP 10-258921 and JP 10-292637) of the present application. The submission of the certified translations of the priority documents overcomes the obviousness rejection set forth in the Official Action, as was noted by the Examiner. (See page 3, lines 1-2, of the Official Action.) Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Cancel)

25-29. (Cancel)